

Republicans' assault on the working families should not be confused with a gas tax cut. They are separate issues.

We should keep the minimum wage debate clean and we should vote to increase the minimum wage. If a tax cut is necessary, then we should do that also, but they are separate issues.

AMERICANS DESERVE AN INCREASE IN MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, hard working Americans deserve a raise. They deserve an increase in the minimum wage. Many of our colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle do not want to provide that increase in the minimum wage because they say that, in fact, people who earn the minimum wage earn much more than that because they get food stamps, they get AFDC payments, they get medical benefits.

The question I have to ask is, Why should the taxpayers have to subsidize these people's jobs? Why should the marketplace not provide a livable wage so that these people can support their families, can support their children without the taxpayers subsidizing this through the welfare system?

When we increase the minimum wage we save a substantial amount of money for those individuals because we no longer have to subsidize their jobs as much as we did before we increased the minimum wage. We ought to make sure that, in fact, we are not asking the taxpayers to subsidize jobs where employers simply choose not to pay the minimum wage.

It is not that they cannot afford to, they just know that they do not have to pay it because the welfare system will subsidize that job. That ought not to be allowed. That ought not to be done anymore. We ought to in fact require those people to pay people for the hard work that they engage in.

RAISING MINIMUM WAGE WILL COST JOBS

(Mr. HUTCHINSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, let me just say in response to the gentleman who just spoke, Republicans are in favor of helping the working poor, but we are in favor of doing it in a way that will truly lift their take-home pay, to lift their wages. Raising the minimum wage will not have that effect.

The fact is economists, 90 percent of them, agree that raising the minimum wage will, in fact, cost jobs; it will cost the jobs of those that we most want to help, the low-skilled worker. The last time we raised the minimum wage, in 1991, only 17 percent of the new benefits

went to people living under the poverty level. That is not the effective way of helping those who are the working poor.

Raising the minimum wage will not only cost jobs, it will be inflationary, costing those whom we want to help more in their goods and services that they need to purchase. It is the wrong way to help those who are the working poor. There is a better way of doing it. We can do it.

I suspect the gentleman who just spoke supported the increased funding for EITC 2 years ago, and there is a better way of doing it, as we take that proposal that has had the support of Republicans and Democrats and focusing it upon those who are truly in need, the working poor, the families with children. We want to help them, but we want to help them in a way that will not hurt the economy and take jobs away from the most needy.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: The Committee on Banking and Financial Services, the Committee on Commerce, the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, the Committee on House Oversight, the Committee on International Relations, the Committee on National Security, the Committee on Science, the Committee on Small Business, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, the pending business is the question of the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceeding.

The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 358, nays 51,

answered "present" 1, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 139]

YEAS—358

Ackerman	Doyle	Klink
Allard	Dreier	Klug
Andrews	Duncan	Knollenberg
Archer	Dunn	Kolbe
Armey	Edwards	LaHood
Bachus	Ehlers	Lantos
Baesler	Ehrlich	Largent
Baker (CA)	Emerson	LaTourette
Baker (LA)	English	Laughlin
Baldacci	Eshoo	Lazio
Ballenger	Evans	Leach
Barcia	Ewing	Lewis (CA)
Barr	Farr	Lewis (KY)
Barrett (NE)	Fattah	Lightfoot
Barrett (WI)	Fawell	Lincoln
Bartlett	Fazio	Linder
Barton	Fields (LA)	Lipinski
Bass	Flake	LoBiondo
Bateman	Foglietta	Lofgren
Becerra	Foley	Lowe
Bentsen	Forbes	Lucas
Bereuter	Ford	Luther
Bilbray	Fowler	Maloney
Bilirakis	Fox	Manton
Bishop	Frank (MA)	Manzullo
Bliley	Franks (CT)	Markey
Blute	Franks (NJ)	Martinez
Boehlert	Frelinghuysen	Mascara
Boehner	Frisa	Matsui
Bonilla	Furse	McCarthy
Bonior	Gallegly	McCollum
Bono	Ganske	McCrery
Boucher	Gejdenson	McDade
Brewster	Gekas	McHale
Browder	Geren	McHugh
Brown (OH)	Gilchrest	McInnis
Brownback	Gilman	McIntosh
Bryant (TN)	Gonzalez	McKeon
Bunn	Goodlatte	McKinney
Bunning	Goodling	McNulty
Burr	Gordon	Meehan
Burton	Goss	Metcalf
Buyer	Graham	Meyers
Callahan	Green (TX)	Mica
Calvert	Greene (UT)	Millender-McDonald
Camp	Greenwood	Miller (FL)
Campbell	Gunderson	Minge
Canady	Gutknecht	Mink
Cardin	Hall (OH)	Mollohan
Castle	Hall (TX)	Montgomery
Chabot	Hamilton	Moorhead
Chambliss	Hancock	Moran
Christensen	Hansen	Morella
Chrysler	Hastert	Murtha
Clayton	Hastings (FL)	Myers
Clement	Hastings (WA)	Myrick
Clinger	Hayworth	Nadler
Clyburn	Hefner	Neal
Coble	Herger	Nethercutt
Coburn	Hinchey	Neumann
Coleman	Hobson	Ney
Collins (GA)	Hoekstra	Norwood
Collins (MI)	Hoke	Nussle
Combest	Holden	Obey
Condit	Horn	Olver
Conyers	Hostettler	Ortiz
Cooley	Houghton	Orton
Costello	Hoyer	Owens
Cox	Hunter	Oxley
Coyne	Hutchinson	Packard
Cramer	Hyde	Parker
Crane	Inglis	Paxon
Crapo	Istook	Payne (NJ)
Creameans	Jackson (IL)	Payne (VA)
Cubin	Jackson-Lee	Pelosi
Cummings	(TX)	Peterson (FL)
Cunningham	Jefferson	Peterson (MN)
Danner	Johnson (CT)	Petri
Davis	Johnson, E.B.	Pomeroy
Deal	Johnson, Sam	Porter
DeLauro	Johnston	Portman
DeLay	Jones	Poshard
Dellums	Kanjorski	Pryce
Deutsch	Kasich	Quillen
Diaz-Balart	Kelly	Quinn
Dickey	Kennedy (MA)	Radanovich
Dicks	Kennedy (RI)	Rahall
Dingell	Kennelly	Ramstad
Dixon	Kildee	Rangel
Doggett	Kim	Reed
Dooley	King	Regula
Doolittle	Kingston	Richardson
Dornan	Klecza	